



Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula, MS



One year. As of this month, it was one year ago that the tsunami of coronavirus restrictions and fears really hit us.

When March 2020 began, there had been fewer than 100 cases identified in the United States; by the end of the month, it was over 100,000 and the country had come to a grinding halt. Now, according to the CDC, there have been over 28 million. For me, it's almost unbelievable that all of this has taken place in only one year; it feels like it's been far longer that we've been muddling through all of this.

I hope that, at this point, we have gained a better perspective on things, and I want to share with you some of the thoughts I'm left with at this point. There was (understandably) a lot of fear at the beginning, much of it due to the unknown -- a new disease had emerged, and our health experts were warning at how deadly it might be. There was much mystery as to how it could spread, what it could do, and how we could protect ourselves against it. We know much more now, and between people willing to wear face masks in public plus new vaccines becoming available, most of us are feeling a lot more optimistic about the future.

As a congregation, or as Christian individuals, was there anything we could have done differently? Knowing what we knew at the time, I don't really think so. When we minimized our in-person contact during March and April last year, it was out of concern for the well-being of our neighbors and our community. When we resumed worshiping indoors in May, we took precautions that have proved effective during the last nine months. Overall, I believe we have been largely successful at finding a balance, not being reckless or inconsiderate of others but hopefully not giving in to fear or abandoning our responsibility to obey, follow, and love God and serve and love our neighbors.

Certainly there is no place or congregation I would rather have been with during the last 12 months than here. I am truly grateful at the support and "just do what we have to do" attitude many have had, and especially being understanding about my hit-and-miss attempts to use videos and other technology! And I hope that in the long-term view the difficulties and temporary separations we've endured will serve only to make us value even more what we have as we gather together as God's people. Last year, even as we were in our cars in the parking lot for service, a number of people told me how good it was just to

The Watchman


*March
2021*

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak" - Ezekiel 3:17

see other members through the window and wave at them. While our worship is back, our extra fellowship is still limited, and perhaps having to forgo it for this length of time will make us appreciate even more how good it is to be in "the communion of the saints." I sincerely hope it won't be the opposite -- "out of sight, out of mind!"

Considering this past year, it would utterly foolish of me to assume too much about what the next 12 months might hold. But Jesus himself says "Don't worry about tomorrow... Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matt. 6:34). So we take things one day at a time, trusting God to provide and care for us each and every day. One of the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5 is patience, and patience is described over 20 times in the New Testament as an essential Christian virtue. This patience is essential because it enables faithful reliance on God -- waiting for Him to act in His way, in His time, instead of taking matters into our own hands. Patient believers are trusting Jesus; the Psalms, too, tell us time after time to "wait for the Lord." Patient believers not only endure the kind of difficult times we've had, but can do so with joy, taking things one day at a time and trusting God to continue providing and caring.

**February Anniversary
& Birthdays (picture from 2020)**

Karen Dunston, Marilyn Trehern &
Kathy Griffin



Elders & Lay Readers

- 7 Shawn Robbins (Donna K.)
- 14 Kevin Rademacher (Ruby D.)
- 21 Bobby Trehern (Shawn R.)
- 28 Jody Heusman (Carl E.)

*Happy
Anniversary*

17 Jody & Tara Heusman



- 1 Frank Feazell
- 2 Emilia Kooienga
- 2 Margaret Harrell
- 5 Carol Jacobson
- 9 Peyton Robbins
- 9 Jody Heusman
- 10 Brady Maggard
- 12 Joshua Hamilton
- 16 Thyne Brown
- 17 Carl Erichsen
- 26 Ruby Dale
- 28 Donnel Davis
- 29 Cameron Linn
- 30 Susan Rademacher



Bible Treasure Hunt: Solve the clue to discover the treasure, a Bible person, place, or thing. Answer on calendar.

Who recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he was presented to the Temple as a baby?

March Scripture Readings

	Mar. 7	Third S. in Lent	Ex. 20:1-17	Psalm 19	1 Cor. 1:18-31	John 2:13-22 (23-25)
	Mar. 14	Fourth S. in Lent	Num. 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-9	Eph. 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
	Mar. 21	Fifth S. in Lent	Jer. 31:31-34	Psalm 119:9-16	Heb. 5:1-10	Mark 10:(32-34) 35-45
HOLY WEEK	Mar. 28	Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion	Zech. 9:9-12	Psalm 118:19-29 or Ps. 31:9-16	Phil. 2:5-11	Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-47 or John 12:20-43



Mary Martha News

Will meet on Monday, March 1 at 5:30 pm.
If you need a ride, please contact Kyndel Torries.

Music Outreach, Classes, and Resources on the Border

Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, El Paso, Texas
\$98,400

The ministry of YLMHC impacts the lives of 400-500 students with educational programs, classroom space, and equipment. For the past 17 years YLMHC's music ministry has proven successful in reaching out to the unchurched by witnessing to the mercy and grace of Christ. The Adelante Ministries offers music classes and leadership training to youth and adults while it also provides service to the church and community. Through involvement in this music program, many students have come to faith in Christ. This grant will enable YLMHC to better equip their classroom and rehearsal space so they can serve and teach a larger range of students. It will also allow them to adapt existing space for music instruction, purchase recording equipment, create video tutorials for online instruction, fund a music intern position, and purchase musical instruments for students unable to afford their own.



Children sing, smile and rejoice as they join in praising at a weekly mission outreach program. Grant funds would enable YLM to expand its classes for young children reaching families who already come each week to YLM's mission campus as a part of other ministry efforts.



Christ Lutheran Church Council Minutes February 15, 2021

Due to inclement weather, the council canceled the meeting and submitted notes via email.

Pastor Waffel: See attached Pastor's report.

President Shawn Robbins: No additional information

VP Kevin Rademacher: Sign-up lists have been posted on the kitchen door of Memorial Hall for Flowers and for Usher/Greeter.

Flowers: In an attempt to help reduce operating costs, flowers can be paid for by members. The Church has an account with a local florist, who provides the appropriate color arrangement for each week. Flowers usually last for 2 Sunday services. If you would like to purchase flowers, they are \$50. Money or a check can be given to Carl labeled "flowers", and placed in the offering plate at the back of the church. You can note on the sign-up sheet if they are "in Memory" of someone, "in Honor" of an event (anniversary, birth, etc.) or "to the glory of God".

Greeter/Usher: We have been fortunate to have Carl Erichsen, Jerold Shepherd to be Usher/Greeter. However, others are welcome to assist. A checklist of duties is laminated and in the bottom of the bulletin basket. Lin Jacobson or Carl, Jerold or Kevin Rademacher will in the back to assist and be the Memorial Hall chaperone.

Greeters: Duties include:

- 1) Greet members and guests as they enter the sanctuary and hand out the weekly bulletin. There are several versions of the bulletin and printed sermon available to assist with the service including a large print bulletin and an expanded full service bulletin.
- 2) Ensure that guests sign the guest registry in the bell tower.
- 3) Once the bell has rung, the Greeter's responsibility is completed and they may be seated for the remainder of the service.

Ushers: We have decided to use a single Usher for services. The Usher is responsible for:

- 1) If Carl or Jerold are not present, ring the bell to signify service is starting. Ring the bell 10-15 times once the pre-service music ends.
- 2) Record an accurate head count (include Pastor and Organist) for the service on sheet in the north window. Wait a while (i.e. 15 minutes) to include late arrivals.
- 3) Communion service. Keeping social distancing guidelines in mind, allow only four members or a family to the communion rail. Try to keep people moving but do not let them get bunched up.
- 4) Open front doors once Pastor has arrived to the back of the church.
- 5) Post service. Check pews for left-over bulletins, waste, personal belongings. Take the bulletin basket, waste, and any left personal belongings to the office.

Chaperone: Since we have gone to using only one Usher and to help with safety, Lin Jacobson has volunteered to stay in the back during service. If he is not present then Carl, Jerold or Kevin may be in the back. The chaperone will lock the doors during service and let people in and out as needed. He is also available to chaperone anyone to Memorial Hall, unlock it and be a safe presence if desired. He will also unlock the doors at the end of service if the Usher does not. Additionally, he is available to assist the Usher with any duty as needed.

Elders Jody Heusmann: No report

Youth Dave Griffin: No report

Education Donna Krebs: No report

Financial Secretary Carl Erichsen:

January \$11,196

February to date: \$5,889

YTD: \$17,085

Treasurer: No report

Social Ministry Melonee Crews: The social ministry team sent out February birthday cards to retirees and Valentine cards to homebound members.

Mary Martha Kyndel Torries: No updates

Stewardship Jay Torries: No report

Respectfully, Susan Rademacher

Pastor's Report to the Board of Elders and Church Council February 2021

Membership, Worship, and Christian Education

- Membership changes: none.
- As far as post-worship fellowship, there's a pot of coffee in case anyone wants to come in, but not many people have come over so far.
- Search for an additional organist: we are thankful for Rita and Tanya's service, but they'd appreciate some relief if we can find another organist to help out!
- Ash Wednesday is February 17 with services at noon and 7pm. Lent midweek services are February 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24 with service at 7pm. Maundy Thursday is April 1, Good Friday is April 2, and Easter is April 4.
 - o There has been good feedback about having more afternoon/daytime services, so I would like to plan for a noon service on Good Friday in addition to the 7pm.
 - o We are not planning soup suppers this Lent, but hope to have a fellowship event later in the spring.
- While the schedule has been hit-and-miss, we continue to work towards confirmation this spring for Kevin Rosamund and Anna Claire Howard, possibly on Palm Sunday.



Mission, Witness, and Outreach

- The online services are a good outreach tool! I encourage everyone to share these on your own pages, as some of you already have. The services stay available after the initial premiere, so anyone can go back and watch older ones too.

Circuit, District, and Synod

- Our next circuit meeting is March 9 via Zoom. We did meet in person in February at St. Matthew's new location in Gulfport.
- Gary Weier is coming to the term-limited end of his service as circuit visitor, and I have been elected to take his place beginning at the next scheduled district convention (perhaps 2022).
- There is a proposal from the national synod to delay our tri-annual schedule of conventions by one year; that would put the district convention in 2022 instead of 2021, and the next national convention in 2023 instead of 2022. Our congregation cast its vote to delay; today is when polling closes, so the final result should be known later this week.

Travel

- Vacation time for 2021: 4 days out of 21 total (1 Sunday out of 3).
- Planned travel for February or March: none.

Other Activities, General Information

- As a reminder, we are able to accept offerings/donations online through PayPal or by credit/debit card. The link is at the bottom of the home page of our website <https://www.christlutheranchurchms.org>
- It has now been over 4 weeks since we had positive Covid cases in church, and to my knowledge nobody else has been sick as a result. I believe we can be confident going forward that the precautions we have been taking are effective at mitigating that risk.

CHURCH WEBSITE

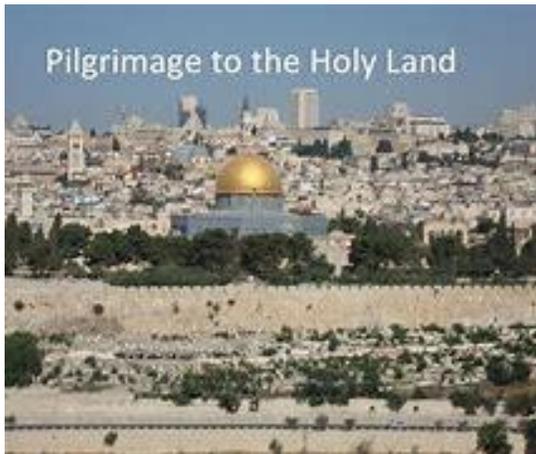
<https://www.christlutheranchurchms.org>.

You can find current and past newsletters, weekly sermons and the monthly calendar.

✓ **IT OUT**



HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE



Holy Land Pilgrimage: Several members have expressed an interest in a trip to Israel in the summer of 2022. God's plan for our salvation has been so closely tied with the land and the people of Israel, and after walking in the footsteps of Jesus and seeing the land where he lived, reading Scripture will never be the same again. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Pastor Waffel.



March 28	Palm Sunday	10:00 am
April 1	Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm
April 2	Good Friday	7:00 pm
April 4	Easter Sunrise Service	7:30 am
	Breakfast	8:30 am
	Egg Hunt	
	Holy Communion Service	10:00 am

A Thought about Stewardship

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, “God’s work, done in God’s way, will not lack God’s supply.” To know God’s way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.



St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God’s Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord’s Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord’s teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord’s Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord’s generosity forms our generosity in return.

Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord’s provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budgetary discussions pop up our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him” (2 Chron 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.



MARCH

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00	Mary/Martha Meeting 5:30		 7:00	Pascagoula Pastor Meeting		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00			 7:00			 8:00
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00 Elders 11:15	Council 6:00		 7:00			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00			 7:00			
28	29	30	31	April 1	2	3
 Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00				 7:00	 7:00	Solution to Bible Treasure Hunt: Simeon 

